

# The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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## Effective Speech By Walter E. Myer

ARE you ill at ease and embarrassed when you undertake to express yourself? Do you frequently grope for the right word and are you unable to find it? Do you mumble and repeat and make a poor impression because you lack a command of language? Very many people find themselves in such positions. They are weak and ineffective in speech and when they read they are handicapped because of vocabulary defects.

How is one to gain a command of language? How is he to acquire a vocabulary? If he is bright and alert and attentive he picks up the meaning of many words without realizing it.

That is the way a child learns. He hears words and gradually understands what they mean. A little later he reads books and finds many words with which he is not acquainted. But he comes to see their meanings by the way they are used in the sentences. At first an unusual word adds nothing to the meaning of a sentence, but something of what the word stands for is sensed and later it is fully understood.

If, however, one is to gain a command of words in this indirect way he must give himself a chance. He must not pamper himself by reading only that which is easy. He must turn to books and magazines and newspapers which contain unusual words and terms. He must be tough-minded enough to read material which will give his brain exercise.

Best results in vocabulary building will come if one does not depend wholly upon the indirect method. One should consciously add to his vocabulary by paying strict attention to unfamiliar words. If he comes upon a word the meaning of which he does not understand, he should turn to a dictionary.

If you should feel, when you are reading a book or when you are preparing your lesson, that your line of thought would be too greatly interrupted if you should turn to a dictionary every time you come to an unfamiliar word, you may mark the new words as you come to them and then after you finish your lesson you may go back, pick out all the words which are not in your vocabulary and look them up in the dictionary.

After you have learned the meaning, the next step is to use the words. If you do not find use for them they are likely to escape you. One should never use words simply because they are long or unusual. He should never use his vocabulary to show off, but he should strive untiringly to build an effective vocabulary.

Many a young person who would not think of going out in public shabbily dressed and who would recoil from the thought of presenting a slovenly appearance is content, nevertheless, with slovenly speech. This is an inconsistent attitude, because one is judged as decisively and as quickly by his speech as by his dress.

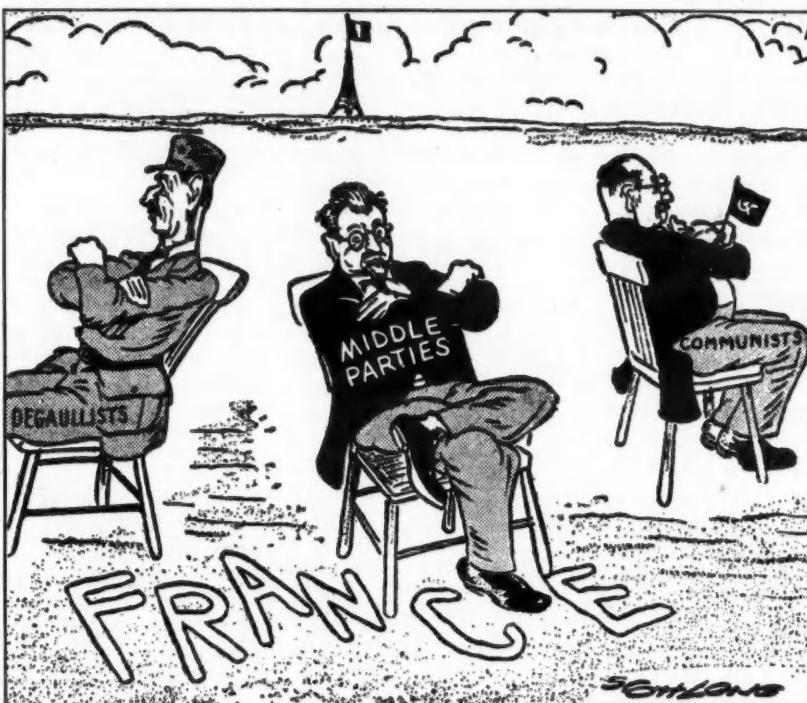


Walter E. Myer

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THESE three groups refuse to cooperate

## The Crisis in France

Political Friction Delays Recovery in Country Whose Resources Can Provide High Living Standards for Its People

IT is no exaggeration to say that France is passing through one of the most difficult and critical periods in her history. Just as the great French Revolution profoundly affected other countries, so may the present upheaval in that land greatly influence world affairs.

One major strike after another has been occurring in France. The nation's shipyards, coal mines, transportation system, and other essential industries have all felt the paralyzing effects of labor walkouts.

The cost of living has gone up 50 per cent since the first of the year, while average wages have increased only 25 per cent. Food supplies, already extremely low, are at rock bottom because of unfavorable weather conditions during the summer.

The government is unable to operate much of the time as a result of political conflict. Three groups of almost equal strength are engaged in a bitter contest for power over the nation's affairs. No party has a majority in parliament, and the competing groups refuse to work together most of the time. Since the French premier and his cabinet must have majority support of parliament at all times, no premier can take any important step without danger of being voted out of office. Hence premiers come and go at frequent intervals.

The three-sided political situation in France is as follows: On one extreme is the Communist party. Its leaders are not represented in the government, but they control most of the labor unions. They are trying to stir up as much trouble and strife as possible, hoping conditions will become so bad as to enable

them to take over control of the government. The Communists take their orders from Moscow, and are using all their influence to bring France into a close working relationship with Russia.

On the other extreme is the new party headed by General Charles de Gaulle, wartime hero of France. It is called the "Reunion of the French People." In recent local elections held throughout the nation, this political group won widespread support. It appears to have the backing of at least one-third of the French people.

In addition to being a bitter foe of the Communists, General de Gaulle wants to change the French Constitution which was adopted a short time after the end of the war. He desires to have a chief executive of France, similar to our President, who could not be voted out of office by the majority in parliament, as the French premier can be today. He also wants to bring business and labor leaders into the government and have them settle their disputes by public negotiation instead of by industrial warfare.

In between these two extreme groups are the Popular Republican party, the Socialists, and several smaller political organizations. These groups work together fairly well, and they are opposed to both the Communists and the de Gaulleists.

The middle parties are convinced that the Communists seek to overthrow French democracy and to establish a dictatorship closely allied with Russia. These parties oppose de Gaulle because they think that he is fascist-inclined; that he wants to

(Concluded on page 6)

## Report on Civil Rights Examined

Further Extension of Our Vital Constitutional Liberties Is Urged by Committee

ONE hundred and fifty-six years ago this month, the first 10 amendments to the United States Constitution went into effect. The exact date was December 15, 1791. These amendments, as students of American history know, are called the Bill of Rights.

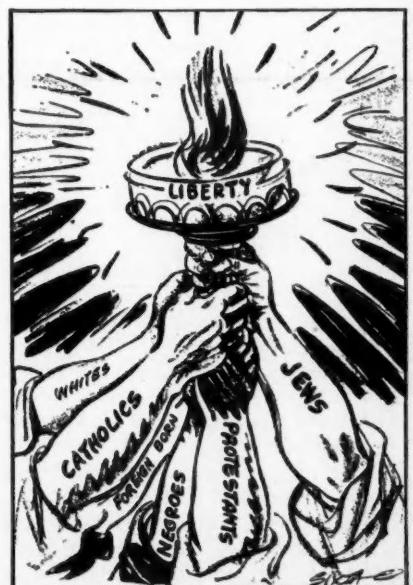
They guarantee to each citizen of this country freedom of religion, speech, and press; the right to assemble peaceably; the right to petition the government. They guarantee us against unfair searches of our homes and against unjust treatment by the police and the courts.

Not only do we have this national Bill of Rights, but all states have similar constitutional protections for the individual. Moreover, the 14th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution provides additional safeguards for the American people. This amendment forbids the states to pass laws which take from citizens any of their essential rights and privileges.

About a year ago, President Truman asked a number of prominent persons to make a careful study of whether the democratic rights of the American people are being upheld in most cases. He asked these persons if they would, after looking into the facts, suggest additional ways by which individual rights might be still better protected.

The group appointed by the President consisted of 15 men and women, including lawyers, leaders of religious groups, businessmen, college presidents, and union officials. The chairman was Charles E. Wilson, president of the General Electric Company.

(Concluded on page 2)



SIXTH FROM INSTITUTE FOR AMERICAN DEMOCRACY, INC.  
HOLD it high—together

# Report on Civil Rights Examined

(Concluded from page 1)

The report of this group, entitled "To Secure These Rights," was delivered to the President a little more than a month ago, was headlined in the nation's press, and has been hotly debated in all parts of the country since that time. We shall take the occasion of the 156th anniversary of the Bill of Rights to discuss this vital report and to summarize the opinions which have been expressed both for and against it.

The committee told the President that the nation has made steady progress toward achieving a high degree of individual freedom and justice. The large majority of our people, it said, are receiving fair treatment. They are enjoying their full rights as citizens of a free, democratic nation.

But here and there the committee

also tells of police officers in some communities who make violent attacks on members of minority groups. A person belonging to one of these groups is frequently denied a fair trial. He is also likely to receive a heavier punishment for a crime than is a member of the majority group. That is particularly true of Negroes.

In other cases, police are brutal with prisoners. People are sometimes arrested and held in jail without any good reason.

## 2. The Right to Citizenship and Its Privileges.

The great majority of our adult citizens are permitted to vote in elections, and thus they may help to decide how they shall be governed. On the other hand, the committee reports

are discriminated against in the armed forces.

The committee goes on to praise the military services for the improvements being made along these lines, but says there is still much unfair treatment which should be eliminated.

## 3. The Right to Freedom of Conscience and Expression.

The American citizen has the right to freedom of religion, speech, press, and assembly. The committee says that, for the most part, these rights are respected.

Americans worship as they choose. Our publications are free from government control. Our citizens can speak freely and meet together at any time.

The worst danger that the committee sees is one that comes from our efforts to deal with the Communists

areas where separate schools are maintained for colored and white students, considerably less money is spent on the former. There are colleges and other special schools which refuse to admit either Negroes or Jews.

Because of their race or religion, many citizens find it difficult to buy or rent houses except in crowded, rundown sections. Some hospitals will not admit Negro patients. Because it is so hard for Negroes to obtain medical training, there are too few Negro doctors.

Finally, it is extremely difficult for Negroes to find restaurants in which to eat, hotels in which to stay, and places of recreation and entertainment which they can enjoy. In most cases, they are barred from white establishments, and there are too few places to take care of them.

These are the highlights from the committee's report. It carefully points out that the conditions which it describes are not restricted to any one section of the country, but are found in widely scattered areas.

The committee recommends that Congress pass laws to insure fair and equal opportunities to all minority groups in matters of voting, working, housing, education, recreation, and so forth. It then asks that the U. S. Justice Department be given sufficient funds to enforce these laws and protect the democratic rights of all citizens.

## Opponents' Views

Those who oppose the committee's report do so on these grounds.

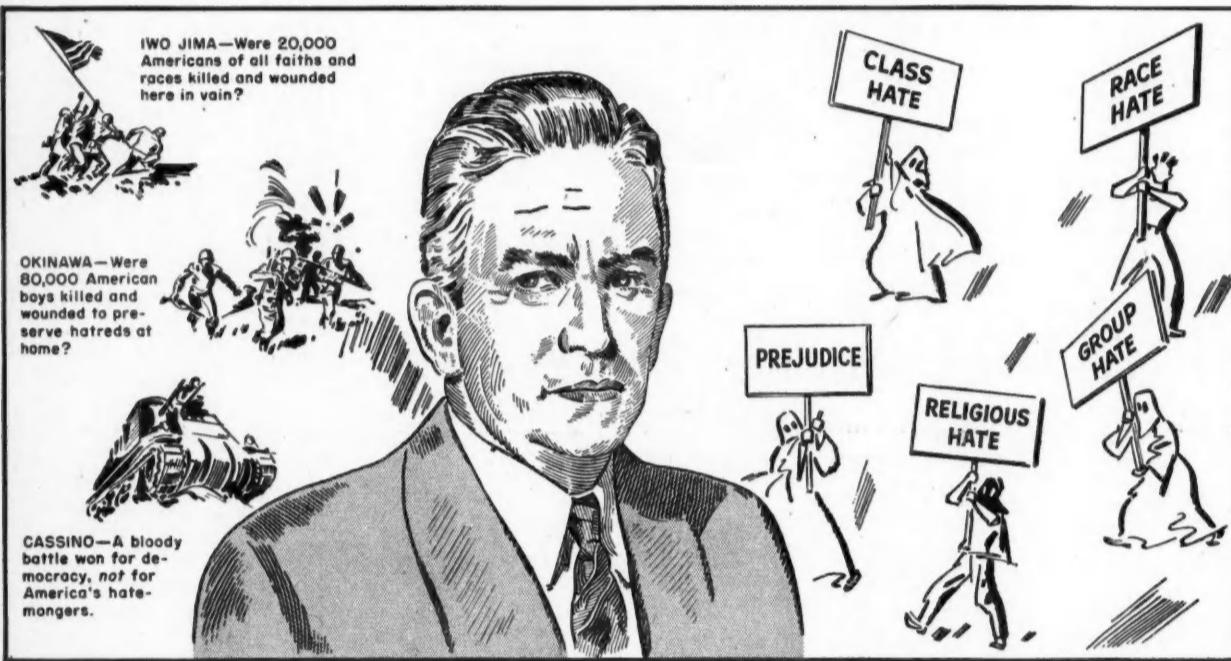
"First of all, the report greatly exaggerates the unfavorable side of the civil liberties' picture in this country. All groups of the population, even those that are discriminated against the worst, are better off here than they would be in any other nation.

"Secondly, the President's committee has the wrong idea of how to achieve still greater equality of opportunity among the American people. It thinks that the passing of additional federal laws will accomplish this aim. On the contrary, such laws will create much more trouble than good among racial and religious antagonists in our country.

"The members of one group cannot be forced to change their attitudes toward the members of another group. They cannot and will not change their feelings and prejudices overnight. Only through long-range education and persuasion can better and fairer relations among conflicting groups be established. Great strides have already been made along this line.

"If, however, we get in a hurry and try to speed up progress by passing drastic laws, the situation will become worse instead of better. New federal laws intended to deal with the problem would be particularly undesirable, because each state and community knows best how to handle its racial, religious, and nationality difficulties."

Such, in brief, is the feeling of those who criticize the report of the President's committee on civil liberties. It is up to the majority of American people and their representatives in Congress to decide between the ideas contained in the report and those of its opponents.



**AMERICANS OF DIFFERENT RACES**, nationalities, and religions fought side by side to preserve the nation during the war. Anyone who seeks to break the ties of comradeship in time of peace does great harm to his country.

found serious flaws in our record—cases in which democratic rights are being denied to citizens. As a great and freedom-loving nation, we must work continuously to remove these shortcomings, the committee stated.

According to this group, there are four rights which every individual should enjoy. Some are promised by the U. S. Constitution itself. Others are a part of our democratic traditions, as proclaimed in such documents as the Declaration of Independence. Here are the four rights listed by the committee, along with its report of cases in which individuals are being denied their democratic privileges.

## 1. The Right to Safety and Security of the Person.

Every citizen, the committee says, should be protected against being arrested or imprisoned without good reason. He should be tried and punished for a wrong-doing only under methods which are provided by law. He must be protected against violence by mobs.

There are too many cases, according to the committee, in which these rights are not upheld. For example, although there are fewer lynchings now than there were some years ago, in 1946 at least six persons, all Negroes, were killed by mobs.

that there are many thousands of people living under the American flag who do not have a voice in the government. Because of their race, some citizens are kept from the polls entirely, either by laws, threats, or unfair "tests" which are given to them before they can vote.

Seven states, the committee points out, still require citizens to pay a special tax for the privilege of going to the polls. The effect of the tax, it says, is to keep thousands of citizens, both white and colored, from voting because they cannot or will not pay the price.

The permanent residents of the District of Columbia are also prevented from voting. They do not elect city officials, they have no representatives in Congress, and they cannot vote in the Presidential elections.

Along with his rights, it is pointed out, the citizen has the duty to help defend the nation in time of emergency. According to the committee, when the members of certain races respond to the call to arms, they sometimes find that they are treated badly.

Often they are assigned to do nothing but heavy labor. It is harder for them to win military promotions than it is for others. In these and other ways, the members of minority races

and Fascists in our midst. It warns that great care must be taken when accusing persons of being Communists or Fascists lest someone be branded unfairly.

At the same time, it says that steps should be taken to expose the real Communists and Fascists, not to keep them from speaking, but to let everyone know who they are.

## 4. The Right to Equality of Opportunity.

The committee believes that it is essential for every person to have the right to develop his skills and to use them. It reports, however, that many persons are denied jobs for which they are fitted because of their race or nationality. The groups most seriously affected in this respect are Negroes, Jews, Japanese-Americans, Mexican-Americans, and Indians.

An employer may advertise that only "whites or gentiles" need apply for a job. In certain fields, the unions restrict membership to white persons, and thus keep others from obtaining jobs. The minority worker, when he gets employment, often finds that he is paid less than others doing the same kind of work. His chances of promotion are also limited.

Other bars to equal opportunity are raised in the field of education. In

# Lesson in Community Improvement

## Detroit Students Show What Can Be Accomplished

A short time ago, we carried a brief note in this paper on the excellent civic work being done by a "Committee of 100" students at Western High School in Detroit, Michigan. We then wrote to that school requesting further information. Tom Quinlan, school counselor who is sponsoring the student committee, has written us a letter which we feel will be of interest to our readers all over the country.

Since I am the sponsor of the committee of 100 at Western High School in Detroit, Michigan, Mr. Simons handed me your letter requesting further information. Because the committee works in small groups on various projects, I shall take the liberty to answer your request since I have an opportunity to get an all-over view.

The conditions that exist in our community are typical of almost any American city, large or small. Decay



DETROIT STUDENTS made house-to-house surveys to find out what civic improvements the citizens want.

due to age is noticeable in many insidious ways. A neglected yard, an unkempt store, few new improvements, rats, smoke, and other similar conditions make the older sections of the city undesirable places to live.

Our nationality stock is good and typically American. There are forty-seven nationalities represented in our school including four races. With fine history and traditions, the community spirit might be classified as indifferent at present.

There are two choices for us. We can let things take their natural course or we can fight. We chose to fight.

First, we had to organize as a study group to become intelligent in terms of the needs of our city in regard to rat eradication, smoke elimination, playgrounds, ordinances, etc. During this study period we became acquainted with city officials and civic groups that were concerned with these problems.

When we felt sufficiently enlightened, we made a survey of the desires of the citizens of the community. We were hoping swimming pools and playgrounds would be the number one problem. The citizens felt differently. They want a cleaner neighborhood in terms of regular garbage collections, rat and smoke elimination, and so forth, with playgrounds seventh on the list.

With this information, we had a mandate to act. No other organization was concerned with these unglamorous subjects, so we had to do the job.

The technique used to get better city service was easy. The students organized a rally, brought out their parents and neighbors. Present to answer questions were the officials concerned with these city services. In answering the questions put to them by the students, they made many promises. These promises have been kept.

At this point I would like to say a word about politicians. We have all been guilty of using those old-time clichés such as "politics is dirty business—politicians are a lot of crooks." Our experience in dealing with city officials has been a most pleasant association. We have found them to be sincere, cooperative, and industrious gentlemen. We are beginning to feel that the fault isn't so much that of the politicians as it is the lack of interest of the citizens.

The job of educating the citizens to a more conscious attitude toward community pride is complex. We ran a weekly meeting for adults on future plans for the city, besides providing a forum on community problems.

The student committee has been kept busy in assisting the rat elimination crews, passing out handbills instructing citizens in rat proofing, getting 5,000 signatures requesting a new smoke ordinance, refinishing marred school desks, washing school walls, reporting sanitary violations, attending council meetings, and in carrying out other similar activities.

To others who would try this action-type of civics, here are a few observations:

There is 99 per cent work and 1 per cent glory for your efforts.

The city or town does not exist that does not need things to be done to improve the community.

Young people are best fitted for the task to get things done because they don't know all the outworn reasons why things should be put off and not accomplished.

Although 98 per cent of the people

will cooperate, you must have courage, patience, and self control to put up with the other 2 per cent.

Don't do what you want to do, but what the community wants. Determine these needs by a survey.

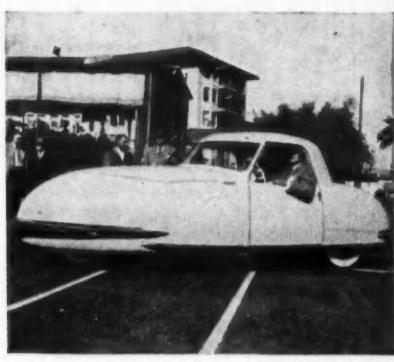
The youth of today are to inherit the America of tomorrow. If it is to be a beautiful, strong and clean America, and if your part of America doesn't measure up to that standard now, then make it. Social studies teachers want to help, but they are waiting for you to make the first move.

The U. S. Air Force is building a great bomber base in northern Maine—the part of continental United States that is nearest to Europe. When completed, probably in 1949, the field will be used for giant B-36's. According to the Air Force, these planes can carry bombs "to any inhabited region in the world and return home without refueling."

The runways on this airfield are to be almost two miles long. Not many hangars are being constructed, because the planes can be left outdoors even in extremely bad weather. Air Force officials do not reveal how many men or planes they intend to station at the field.

The United States government is spending 35 million dollars for this air base. About 800 construction workers are now building it. They have swarmed into nearly Limestone, Maine, and have changed the quiet potato-marketing center into a boom town.

The little city of Sidon at the eastern end of the Mediterranean may once again become a flourishing commercial center. It has recently been chosen as the terminus of an important oil pipe line from Saudi Arabia. In Biblical days Sidon was a thriving seaport. Although the city has a good harbor, it has done little business in recent years.



PRESS ASSOCIATION, INC.  
A THREE-WHEELED CAR proved its usefulness at demonstrations recently. The car has complete visibility and can turn "on a dime."

## Science News

AIRPLANE engineers have designed a plane which may revolutionize both military and commercial air transportation. The fuselage, which carries cargo and passengers, may be detached from the rest of the airplane. Thus a plane equipped as a hospital unit could land, leave the unit on the ground, and return to its base for another load. The same system could be used for carrying cargo.

In Mexico, scientists have found what they believe is one of the oldest human skeletons ever discovered in North America. It is between 10,000 and 15,000 years old. Scientists say that the man was about 5 feet 7 inches tall, somewhat taller than the average Mexican Indian of today, and that he had a well-developed brain.

A method of purifying water, without the addition of chemicals which give the water a peculiar taste, has been worked out. A large tank, lined with rubber, contains several layers of sand which are separated by mats of glass wool. As the water trickles through the layers, an electric current is passed through the sand. This causes the bacteria in the water to stick to the grains of sand.

Surplus landing craft such as the famous LST boat, used extensively during the war, may have important peacetime uses. It is thought that these ungainly looking boats can be used in rivers such as South America's Amazon, and other streams along which not many docks and landing devices have been constructed.

An automobile of Czechoslovakian make is to be sold in our country. The "Tatra 87" is a five-passenger car and has V-8 engine located in the rear. It has four speeds, plus reverse. The back seat of the car is located between the front and back wheels, instead of over the back ones. The streamlined foreign-made car will be priced at \$6,200.

Another use for nylon has been found in the manufacture of faucet washers. Nylon is tough, and does not expand or contract at different temperatures. Although constantly exposed to very hot water, the nylon washers will not harden or crack. Manufacturers say that these washers will do away with the irritating dripping faucets found at one time or another in most homes.

By HAZEL LEWIS.

## S M I L E S

"I think the judge was a little confused."

"Why?"

"Because he gave the Prosecuting Attorney thirty days."

\* \* \*

"Are you doing anything Sunday evening?" a businessman asked his stenographer.

"No, not a thing," she replied hopefully.

"Well, then," he said sternly, "see if you can't get down here on time Monday morning."

\* \* \*

Uncle (giving nephew a quarter): "Now, be careful with that money. Remember 'a fool and his money are soon parted.'"

Nephew: "Yes, I know, uncle, but just the same I want to thank you."

\* \* \*

A motorist was asked if he had tried a new device which is said to cut gas consumption by half.

"Yes," he replied. "It did all the makers claimed for it. I also bought a new carburetor which saved 30 per cent, got another brand of gas which saved 20 per cent, and some special spark plugs which saved another 10 per cent."

"Then I took the car out for a test run, and I give you my word, the gas tank overflowed before I'd gone five miles."



PART OF COLLIER'S  
"By George, you're right!"

# The Story of the Week

## War Investigations

A special committee of the Senate has been investigating industrial practices in connection with our nation's war effort. The group of senators has been especially anxious to discover whether there was any graft or inefficiency in the manufacturing and sale of war equipment.

The committee was first set up during World War II. It was popularly known as the Truman Committee, for it was headed by Harry Truman, then a senator from Missouri. Its investigations have continued since the end of the war, under different chairmen.

Recently the committee brought forth startling information concerning Major General Bennett Meyers, one of the high Air Force officers in charge of purchasing equipment. The committee says that Meyers used his high position to make money for himself.

The committee charged, for example, that Meyers set up a manufacturing firm and saw to it that the company received profitable business from the Air Force. As a result of the committee's investigation, the Air Force is taking action against Meyers. In addition, the courts will decide whether he has violated any laws and, if so, how he shall be punished.

The Senate committee has not completed its studies and plans other investigations. It may produce more startling information before it is through.

## Good News from Britain

Great Britain's coal production is rising. This is encouraging news for all Europe. Coal is desperately



**WAITING for aid on the home front**

needed by the people of that continent, and it is a product which Britain intends to share with other countries under the European self-help portion of the Marshall Plan.

A short time ago British miners broke a five-year record by turning out 4½ million long tons of coal in a week. (A long ton equals 2,240 pounds.) British officials hope that by 1951 their country will be able to send abroad 25 million tons of coal a year. That will be a little more than half as much as was shipped in 1938, but it will be high in comparison with last year's 9 million tons.

Britain's government-operated coal industry must overcome a number of



**A CHILDREN'S REPUBLIC** has been organized in southern France for 125 boys and girls who lost one or both parents during the war. The older children govern themselves, under adult supervision, and each one is taught a trade.

big obstacles. One of these is lack of modern machinery—particularly conveyors and locomotives to haul the coal out of the pits. The government is installing such equipment as rapidly as possible. Meanwhile, miners are putting in long hours so as to turn out as much coal as possible under present conditions.

## New Granary for Europe?

With modern farming methods North Africa might become the granary of Europe, Thomas Campbell, a Montana wheat grower, believes. In a recent issue of the *New York Times Magazine* he tells how sufficient wheat might be raised in Algeria, Morocco, and Tunisia to relieve us in the near future of the burden of furnishing grain for Europe.

Mr. Campbell, who was in North Africa during the war and did a government report on wheat production there, says that, contrary to public opinion, much of North Africa is not too dry for raising grain. In fact, the climate and soil are much like those in Montana where Mr. Campbell's farms have averaged 32 bushels of wheat per acre. However, in North Africa the use of primitive methods of plowing and threshing have kept the yield down to about six bushels an acre.

If American practices were applied to Africa, Mr. Campbell is sure there would be a tremendous increase in yield. He thinks the first step is to provide Arab farmers with steel plows and seeders. Then methods of soil and moisture conservation should be taught them. Adequate transportation would have to be supplied to carry away the harvest, but this should not be a difficult problem.

This is the same region, Mr. Campbell points out, that in ancient times was the granary of the Roman Empire.

## Basketball Season

Basketball teams are now getting into full swing all over the country. For the next three months about 17,000 high school teams—more than play baseball and football combined—will compete for league championships and the right to play in post-season tournaments. Most states have systems whereby high school champions are determined among both large and

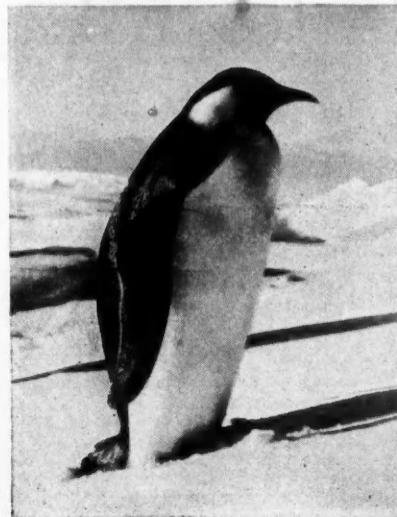
small schools. In March a handful of teams will emerge with the highest honors.

College and professional teams are also swinging into action. Last season's college tournaments show that basketball of high quality is now being played in all sections of the country. The finalists in two of the biggest tournaments included teams from such widely separated institutions as the Universities of Utah, Kentucky, Oklahoma and Holy Cross College of Worcester, Massachusetts. All these colleges are expected to have top-flight quintets again this year.

Many cities in the East and Middle West are now represented by professional teams which are competing in one or the other of basketball's two big pro leagues. Sparked by former college stars, most of these teams are already in action and are attracting good crowds.

## Antarctic Expedition

Now that spring has arrived in the Antarctic, Commander Finn Ronne's polar expedition is beginning its exploration of the barren, ice-locked areas at the bottom of the world. Arriving in Palmer Land, Antarctica, last March, the Ronne expedition was forced to stay close to its base camp for many months while violent storms raged for days on end and the temperature dropped far below zero. However, the expedition used its time during the dark polar night by mak-



**PENGUINS** are a common sight to explorers in Antarctica.

ing careful weather studies and by preparing its dog sleds and other equipment for the time when it would be able to take to the trail.

In the coming months the expedition, sponsored by the American Geographical Society, will carry out a program of exploration and map making. This remote and least known of all continents will be explored by plane and dog team. In June the expedition will return to the United States.

Ronne, a naval commander, is the son of Martin Ronne, a Norwegian explorer, who assisted Amundsen and Byrd in their expeditions to this part of the world. Among the 22 members of the present expedition are Mrs. Ronne and the wife of the chief pilot. They are the first women ever to have spent the winter in the Antarctic.

## Stamp Out Tuberculosis!

The sale of Christmas seals to raise money for fighting tuberculosis has been an annual event in the United States since 1907. The colorful stamps not only brighten envelopes, parcels, and gifts, but they also work against a dangerous disease—one which kills Americans at the rate of about six per hour.



**BUY Christmas Seals!**

Of each dollar you spend for seals, 95 cents remains in your city, county, or state. Five cents goes to a national TB organization, which uses its share to conduct research on better methods of combating the disease.

## Chinese Elections

Elections held recently in China made little difference in the political situation of that country. Communists, who were not eligible to vote, maintain their strong military position in northern China regardless of how the voting in other parts of the nation went. The Kuomintang (National People's Party), which controls the rest of China, had little opposition at the polls, so the set-up of the Nationalist Government was not changed.

The startling thing about the elections, though, was that out of 165 million persons who were qualified to vote, only one million went to the polls. There are a number of explanations for this low figure. For 20 years the nation has been governed by the Kuomintang, or Nationalist, Party, and there has never been political activity and opposition as we know it.

For about 10 years, China has been at war. At first there was the struggle against the Japanese invaders, and now there is civil strife between the Communists and Nationalists. As a result Chinese industrial and economic life is disorganized, and this condition

does not permit the people to give thought to political matters.

Furthermore, illiteracy in China is extremely high. Education is a corner stone of self-government, and until the Chinese people learn at least to read and write, it is doubtful that democracy can come into existence there.

### Opinions of 16 Experts

Last month *Newsweek* magazine asked 16 foreign-affairs experts to give their opinions on future relations between the United States and Russia. In this group were Brooks Atkinson of the *New York Times*, Vera Micheles Dean of the Foreign Policy Association, other leading writers, and several prominent university professors.

These authorities were asked what, in their opinions, are the chief causes of friction between the United States and Russia. As the most important cause they named the present policies and attitudes of top Soviet officials. As a close second they mentioned the sharp differences between communist and capitalist ideas.

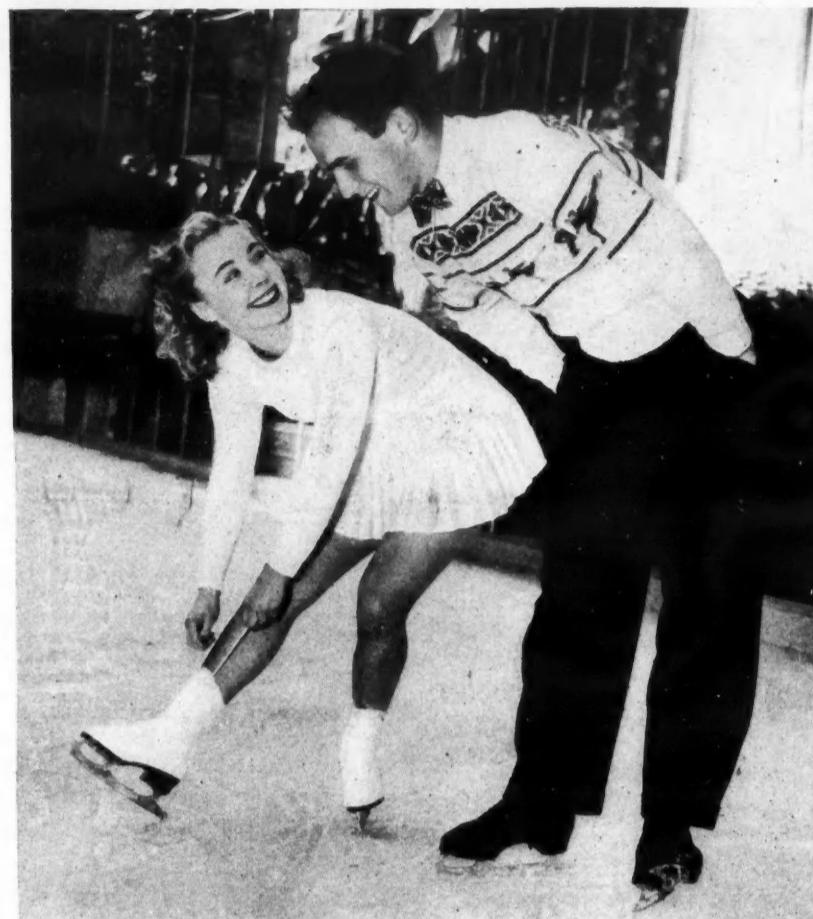
Seven of the 16 think there is "a 50-50 chance for a peaceful solution" of Russian-American differences. Seven think that a peaceful solution is probable. Two expect war, but none think an armed conflict is inevitable. Most of the experts foresee a long-term armed truce between the two countries, "based on mutual respect for each other's military power."

### Military Chiefs

Newly appointed heads of the Army and the Marine Corps are now busily preparing themselves for their jobs. General Omar Bradley is to succeed General Eisenhower in the top Army post, while General Clifton Cates will become head of the Marines in place of General Vandegrift.

General Bradley commanded the American troops in the invasion of Normandy and later was in charge of the Twelfth Army Group which sent the 1st and 9th Armies sweeping across Europe. At the end of the war he stepped into the difficult job of Administrator of Veterans Affairs. Since that time his handling of this huge agency has won him the applause of veterans and other citizens.

General Bradley is a genial man who was popular with his troops. A



**OLYMPIC SKATERS.** Gretchen Merrill of Boston and Dick Button of Philadelphia are shown at a workout of the U. S. Olympic Figure Skating Team at the Rockefeller Center Skating Pond, New York City.

baseball player at West Point, he is still an ardent sports fan.

General Cates, a Marine officer for more than 30 years, played a major part in the war in the Pacific. He helped to plan the attack on Tinian and was a combat commander at both Guadalcanal and Iwo Jima. Since June, 1946, he has been head of the Marine Corps School at Quantico, Va.

General Cates is a native of Tennessee. He is 54 years old, the same age as General Bradley.

### Figure Skaters

American skaters are already getting in shape for the Winter Olympic Games to be held in St. Moritz, Switzerland, next January and February. On the United States team of 78 bobsledders, skaters, and skiers will be five men and four women who will compete with the champions of other nations in the sport of figure skating.

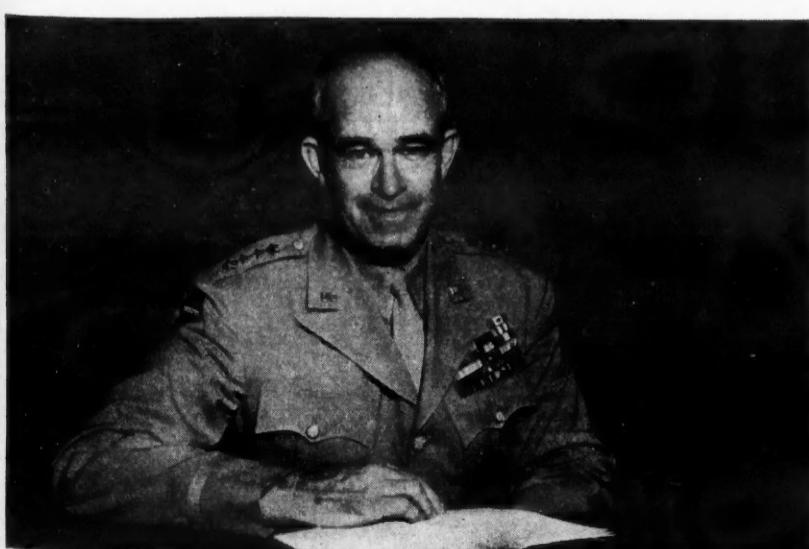
The nation's leading figure skaters are Gretchen Merrill of Boston and Dick Button of Philadelphia. Last year each finished second in the world championship competition at Stockholm. The international champions are Hans Gerschweiler of Switzerland and Barbara Ann Scott of Ottawa, Canada.

### Cited for Contempt

At the time this is written, it is not known what legal punishment—if any—will be given to the 10 Hollywood figures who have been cited for contempt of Congress. The facts of the case have been turned over to the Justice Department for prosecution. If these men are found guilty, they may receive a maximum punishment of one year in jail and a \$1,000 fine. They have already been dropped from their jobs in Hollywood by their employers.

In an investigation which caused much controversy, these 10 individuals refused some weeks ago to tell the House Committee on Un-American Activities whether or not they were members of the Communist Party. The pros and cons of the investigation were discussed in the November 10th issue of *THE AMERICAN OBSERVER*. Later, by a large margin, the House of Representatives voted that refusal to answer the question constituted contempt of Congress.

Discussion is still widespread on the best way of combating communism and at the same time preserving civil liberties. Some say that the cited screen writers were within their constitutional rights in refusing to state their party affiliation. Others agree with the House that refusal to answer such a question is a flouting of authority and might in time seriously weaken our government in its efforts to fight communism.



**GENERAL OMAR BRADLEY**, who will become Army Chief of Staff when General Eisenhower leaves the military service to serve as president of Columbia University

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## Study Guide

### Civil Rights

1. Describe some of the guarantees made to each American citizen by the Bill of Rights.
2. List the four main rights which the President's committee, headed by Charles E. Wilson, says every American should enjoy.
3. How is the right of Americans to safety and security sometimes violated?
4. Tell of some ways in which many citizens are prevented from voting.
5. What action in regard to Communists and Fascists does the President's committee recommend?
6. How is equality of opportunity frequently denied?
7. Give some arguments of those who oppose the report of the President's committee.

### Discussion

1. On the basis of your present information, do you agree with the committee's report, or oppose it? Give reasons.
2. Do you think that more progress in the field of civil liberties can be made by federal legislation, or through leaving the problem to the states, and through conducting educational campaigns? Explain your position.

### France

1. Why is the political situation in France today called "three-sided"?
2. What parties are now in control of the government in France?
3. What are some of the critical issues now faced by the French government?
4. What are some of France's natural advantages which, if properly used, can bring prosperity to the country?
5. Why has the manufacture of machinery lagged behind the development of light industries in France?
6. In what ways is France aided by its colonial empire?
7. What concessions will France have to give to some of her colonies if she is to continue to carry on profitable trade with them?

### Discussion

1. How do you think that the serious Communist threat in France can best be met? Give reasons for your answer.
2. What effect do you think that the triumph of democracy—or of communism—in France would have on the other nations of Europe? Explain.

### Miscellaneous

1. What is one of the obstacles that Great Britain's coal mines must overcome if they are to increase production permanently?
2. Why did so few people vote in the recent elections in China?
3. How might North Africa, in the opinion of an American wheat expert, become a highly productive grain country?
4. Who are the newly appointed heads of the Army and the Marine Corps?
5. What do the foreign-affairs experts who were polled by *Newsweek* believe to be the chief causes of friction between the United States and Russia?
6. What are some of the projects that the Finn Ronne expedition is carrying out in Antarctica?
7. What is the Senate committee, now investigating wartime industrial practices, trying to find out?
8. In what city have students taken an active part in community improvement?
9. Why has Iran been a center of controversy among the great world powers?

The Pacific island of Juan Fernandez, 365 miles southwest of Valparaiso, Chile, is supposedly the island where Robinson Crusoe was shipwrecked.

There is a postage stamp in every denomination from one to 25 cents with one exception: there is no 23-cent stamp in current use.



POLITICAL RALLIES such as this are frequently held in France these days and they often lead to violence and rioting

## France Today

(Concluded from page 1)

establish a strong government for the purpose of keeping workers in check.

The French people are distributing their support to these three political groups on a fairly equal basis. The middle parties combined have a little more popular backing than either the Communists or the de Gaullists, but each group is fairly equal in strength.

The extreme poverty and hardships of millions of Frenchmen have helped the Communists to win their large following. Many of the people feel that they could not be worse off under Communist leadership than they are now, so they have turned to this party in desperation.

General de Gaulle and his party are supported by Frenchmen who are sick and tired of costly strikes and political strife. They have become convinced that a strong government is essential to prevent the Communists from coming into power and to maintain order in French political and industrial affairs. Most businessmen, shopowners, and professional people are backing de Gaulle.

The middle parties are being supported by Frenchmen who fear both the Communists and de Gaulle. Such people are appealing to their countrymen not to support leaders and programs which may wipe out democracy and all individual freedom in France.

The middle parties, as we go to press, are in control of the premiership and the cabinet. How long they will retain power, however, and whether or not they can accomplish anything, remains to be seen.

The French government, regardless of who controls it, faces critical issues. War has left the factories and rail-

roads in bad shape. Farm machinery is scarce. The people are tired and hungry, and many of them have uncomfortable homes. There is a shortage of able-bodied workers—and to make matters worse, harvests have been poor.

Because of these conditions, production is low and France is in a bad way. She must have food and clothing for her 40 million people, raw materials for her industries, and machinery for her factories and farms. Eventually, the country can produce many of these articles for itself. Meanwhile, though, it must have goods from foreign countries to start it on the way to recovery. In order to buy what she needs, France must borrow money from abroad. That is why French officials are deeply interested in the proposed Marshall Plan. They feel that the loans which they would receive under this plan would revive the country.

France has many advantages which, if properly used, can bring prosperity. The nation has an excellent climate, fertile soil, and well-balanced industry and agriculture. It is rich in minerals. There are huge iron deposits, particularly in the northeast. France leads Europe in the production of bauxite, the ore from which aluminum is made.

The only important mineral which France lacks is coal, and the country has had to rely on water power or buy fuel from other nations for its factories. To make up for this deficit, French leaders are determined that permanent peace terms must include some means whereby France can be certain of always obtaining plenty of coal from western Germany.

Almost half of the land in France is under cultivation. The farms are small, averaging 24 acres in size. On them, the hard-working French farm-

ers raise nearly every important type of crop. Yields, however, are often low because the farmers lack modern machinery.

In addition to her agriculture, France has well-developed light industries—industries that manufacture textiles, leather goods, jewelry and similar articles. Before the war the nation was famous the world over for consumer products and luxuries such as expensive clothes, and art goods. Some of these items are once again being sold abroad, and are helping to pay for the foreign materials which the French people must have.

On the other hand, France's heavy industry, such as the manufacture of machinery, has lagged behind. The lack of coal is partly responsible for this situation. An equally important factor, though, is the French people's failure to modernize their factory equipment and methods.

The nation is favorably situated for

trade and commerce. A little smaller than Texas, France lies northeast of Spain, touching Belgium, Luxembourg, Germany, Switzerland, and Italy on its eastern border. Two long coast lines—on the Mediterranean and the Atlantic Ocean—give the French people access to the seas.

From its colonial empire, one of the world's largest, France obtains valuable products. Indo-China furnishes rice, rubber, and coal. Numerous tropical items come from the African possessions—French North Africa, West Africa, Equatorial Africa, and Somaliland. Madagascar and the smaller French islands in the Indian Ocean yield coffee and spices. New Caledonia, an island just east of Australia, is valuable for its output of such minerals as chrome and iron.

Holding this empire together, though, is no easy job. Lately there has been a great deal of unrest and violent resistance against French rule, particularly in Madagascar and Indo-China. Although France may continue to carry on profitable trade with her overseas possessions, she will have to give the natives a large measure of self-government.

When her needs are balanced against her resources, France is seen to be a fortunate nation. Two world wars, however, and continued political unrest have brought the country to a point of near collapse. Today she is struggling to become self sufficient again. If she accomplishes this task through democratic means, such principles will be strengthened throughout Europe. Otherwise, democracy on that continent may lose seriously in prestige. So the stakes are high both for France and for the democratic cause.

According to a survey made by some leading universities, the salary that a college graduate can expect to start earning immediately after leaving school has risen sharply during the past 10 years. The 1938 graduates of one large university started working for pay averaging about \$65 per month. The 1947 graduates of another school received, as average beginning salaries, more than \$200 a month. It must be remembered, of course, that prices of food, clothing, and other items that salary earners must buy are much higher now than they were in 1938.

The average 1938 graduate, who started working for \$65 a month, is now, because of the general increase in salaries, receiving more than six times that much, or about \$400.

## YOUR VOCABULARY

*In each of the sentences below match the italicized word with the following word or phrase whose meaning is most nearly the same. Turn to page 8, column 4, for the correct answers.*

1. Many countries in Asia have an *agrarian* (ah-grair'-an) economy. (a) stable (b) agricultural (c) industrial (d) unstable.

2. They decided to *scrutinize* (skrōō'ti-niz) his plan. (a) discard (b) examine (c) criticize (d) accept.

3. Surprise was shown at his *belligerent* (bell'i-kōs) action. (a) friendly (b) unexpected (c) foolish (d) hostile.

4. They were irritated with her *petulant* (pet'yoo-lant) answers. (a)

silly (b) intolerant (c) reckless (d) peevish.

5. The soldier showed *temerity* (tē-mair'i-ti). (a) timidity (b) rashness (c) skill (d) determination.

6. The engineer's decisions were *infallible* (in-fāl'i-bl). (a) poor (b) without error (c) unpredictable (d) understandable.

7. There was no mistaking the *venom* (vēn'om) in his words. (a) malice and spite (b) sympathy and understanding (c) truth (d) insincerity.

8. The people of the country were *restive* (rēs'tiv). (a) calm (b) resting (c) restless (d) determined.

## Straight Thinking

By Clay Coss

HAVE encountered quite a few instances of distorted and unfair thinking in connection with the now famous case of Major General Bennett Meyers. His appearance before the Senate War Investigating Committee made headlines in the nation's press for a number of days. Attention will continue to be focused on him until after he is tried on charges of breaking federal laws during the war. He has already been deprived of high military honors and of a substantial lifetime pension, because Air Force officials disapprove of the methods he used in trying to make large sums of money while in the service.

In talking with friends and acquaintances about this matter, I have been surprised at how many of them assume, without evidence, that a great many of the officers in the armed forces during the war were just as guilty of "graft and corruption" as General Meyers. "He's just a scapegoat," it is frequently said, "and most of the rest were just as bad."

One would not be permitted to make such an accusation against an individual or organization in a court unless he had substantial facts and evidence to support his charge. While a person outside of court, unless he is sued for slander, cannot be prevented from talking irresponsibly about others, he should be made to realize that such a practice is unfair and cynical.

If a friend of yours, or a member of your school, were to act unethically or illegally, you would not want people to assume, without any basis, that you were equally guilty of your friend's misconduct. The fair-minded, straight-thinking person will not engage in such assumptions, but instead will insist on being shown convincing facts and evidence before jumping at conclusions of this nature.

## Our Readers Say—

In an early issue this year your editorial contained an excellent pledge for young people: "I shall not by word or act, by anything I may do or fail to do, add to the burdens of anyone . . . I shall abstain from disturbing or hurtful remarks . . ."

Why not ask the delegates to the UN to take such a pledge? If they would do so sincerely, we could not only look forward to a truly peaceful world tomorrow, but we would have it today.

ADAM HAHN,  
Akron, Ohio.

\* \* \*

I have read your article on Korea, entitled "Korean People Want Freedom," with keen interest, and I am grateful for its accurate statements on the existing conditions in Korea, and for its sympathetic understanding of her people's aspirations for democracy and freedom.

B. C. LIMB,  
Korean Commissioner  
to United States,  
Washington, D. C.

\* \* \*

I have read many articles about conditions in Europe, and of the need for us to conserve food, especially grain. I also hear about grain rotting in piles on the ground because railroad cars are not available to haul it to elevators or seaports. It seems to me railroad cars should be provided to save this wheat before we talk about rationing.

W. PAUL DIXON,  
Bennett, Missouri.



AIR HOSTESSES enjoy their work

UNITED AIR LINES

## A Future Career -- Air Hostess

**P**ERHAPS no other career is as attractive to young women as that of the air hostess—and undoubtedly the work has many advantages. It involves travel. The hostess is constantly meeting interesting people from many walks of life. Altogether, it is a stimulating vocation.

There are, however, disadvantages that each young woman should consider before she sets her heart on a career in this field. First of all, the competition for available jobs is keen. Even though air travel is expanding and will continue to do so for some time into the future, the number of applicants for jobs as air hostess is far greater than any foreseeable demand for them.

In the second place, salaries are not high, considering the rather strict requirements. A beginning hostess on a domestic line, one that operates only within the United States, earns about \$150 per month. The top salary is about \$210 a month. Positions on international routes pay slightly more.

A third disadvantage lies in the fact

that the air hostess' job does not often lead to a better position. Furthermore, her hours of work are irregular, though they are not long.

Each air line has its own requirements for positions in this field, and full details should be obtained from the individual companies. The Air Transport Association, 1107 16th Street, N. W., Washington, D. C., also has material on the requirements.

In general, applicants must be intelligent and they must be able to meet and talk with people easily. From one to four years of college work, plus experience in business or in nursing, are required. To fill some jobs, a young woman must be able to speak at least one language in addition to English. The hostess must be between 21 and 28 years of age, from 60 to 66 inches tall, and she must weigh between 95 and 125 pounds.

After an applicant has been accepted by a company, she is given from six to eight weeks of training in a special school. Here she learns the details of her job and is taught a little about the plane's operation.

The hostess' job is primarily that of caring for the passengers during a trip. She greets each one as he boards the plane and sees that his seat reservation is correct. During the flight she answers questions, serves meals, and helps passengers in many ways.

Railroads have begun to employ persons whose duties are similar to those of the air hostess. The names of railroads which hire hostesses may be secured from the Association of American Railroads, Transportation Building, Washington, D. C. Further information should be obtained from the railroads themselves.

A young woman interested in this line of work would do well to prepare for some other occupation for insurance. Then if the opportunity to become a hostess does not present itself, she will be qualified to earn a living.

(Editor's note: We have received a large number of letters in response to the question of whether or not we should omit the answers to the vocabulary test from THE AMERICAN OBSERVER. The overwhelming majority of those writing to us want the answers given each week, as they have been in the past. We shall abide by this vote.)

H. LEE SUNDERLAND,  
Axtell, Kansas.

\* \* \*



The Registry of Medical Technologists tells us that the salary estimates given in the article on Laboratory Technicians were too low. Recent figures show that beginning technologists may earn from \$175 to \$200 per month. Experienced technicians earn from \$250 to \$275 per month, and a few technicians earn \$300 a month or more. We are glad to correct the information given in the earlier article.

By CARRINGTON SHIELDS.

## Monthly Test

*Note to teachers.* This test covers the issues of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER for November 3, 10, and 17, and December 1. The answer key appears in this week's issue of *The Civic Leader*.

*Directions for students.* After the corresponding number on your answer sheet for each of the following items, write "true" if the statement is true, and "false" if the statement is false.

1. Special sessions of Congress have been called more frequently in recent years than they were early in our history.

2. Since the end of the war, Russia has refused to agree to any compromises on important international issues.

3. The chief reason for the poverty of peasants in Manchuria is the lack of resources in that country.

4. General de Gaulle favors a policy of sympathetic cooperation with the Communists.

5. Farmers in the Midwest are expecting their wheat crop next year to be smaller than that harvested this year.

6. Thousands of federal government employees are now being investigated to determine whether they are loyal to the United States.

7. The report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights recommended that residents of Washington, D. C., be permitted to vote in both local and national elections.

8. Among her natural resources, Brazil possesses abundant supplies of coal and oil.

9. Both Russia and Poland have accepted membership on the Balkan Commission recently created by the United Nations.

10. By next January, Burma is to become a free nation.

11. The countries behind the "Iron Curtain" carry on no trade with the nations of western Europe.

12. Several persons who were called before the House Committee on Un-American Activities refused to say whether or not they were Communists.

13. The leader of the largest musicians' union in the United States has announced that the members of his union will not make any more phonograph records after this year.

14. On most occasions, a majority of the members of the United Nations vote against proposals supported by Russia.

15. The nations of eastern Europe under Russian control are highly industrialized.

*For each of the following questions and incomplete statements, write the number of the correct answer on your answer sheet.*

1. What action has the Brazilian government taken with regard to Communists in that country? (1) It has encouraged the activities of Communist parties. (2) It has treated Communist and non-Communist parties exactly alike. (3) It has outlawed the Communist party and broken off diplomatic relations with Russia.

2. During recent months, the Communist forces in Manchuria have (1) lost most of their strong points to the Nationalist armies, (2) decided to stop fighting and sue for peace, (3) broken off diplomatic relations with Russia, (4) gained control of more than three-fourths of Manchuria.

3. The Foreign Ministers of the "Big Four" nations have been meeting in what city? (1) Washington (2) London (3) Paris (4) Moscow.

4. The United States has sent medical supplies and other aid to fight an epidemic of cholera which has taken thousands of lives in (1) Brazil (2) South Africa (3) Egypt (4) Norway.

*(Continued on next page)*

## Monthly Test

(Continued from page 7)

5. What is the chief crop grown in the region of the United States known as the "dust bowl"? (1) wheat (2) cotton (3) corn (4) hay.

6. Which of the following men is Speaker of the U. S. House of Representatives? (1) Robert Taft (2) Joseph Martin, Jr. (3) Tom Connally (4) Sam Rayburn.

*Identify the following men who are prominent in the news. Choose the proper description for each man from the list given below. Write the capital letter which precedes that description opposite the number of the man to whom it belongs.*

1. Edouard Benes
2. General Charles de Gaulle
3. Eurico Gaspar Dutra
4. Arthur Vandenberg
5. Cyrus Ching
6. Mao Tse-Tung
7. Stanislaw Mikolajczyk
8. J. Edgar Hoover
- A. French political leader
- B. Director of Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service
- C. President of Brazil
- D. British labor leader
- E. Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)
- F. Polish Peasant Party leader who recently fled from his country
- G. President *pro tempore* of the U. S. Senate
- H. Leader of Communist forces in Manchuria
- I. President of Czechoslovakia
- J. Russian Foreign Minister

*In each of the following items, select the word which most nearly defines the word in italics and write its letter on your answer sheet.*

1. He clearly showed his *abhorrence* of the idea. (a) fear, (b) liking, (c) hatred, (d) ignorance.

2. The officials used *coercion* in order to get the job done. (a) force, (b) trickery, (c) bribery, (d) persuasion.

3. A large percentage of the people in some countries are *illiterate*. (a) homeless, (b) bitter and sullen, (c) undernourished, (d) unable to read or write.

4. Do you think we should have a more *diversified* program? (a) entertaining, (b) varied, (c) educational, (d) humorous.

5. The extent of the damage was *infiniteesimal*. (a) very small, (b) exaggerated, (c) enormous, (d) unknown.

6. His decision seemed to be *irreversible*. (a) thoughtless, (b) unchangeable, (c) incorrect, (d) surprising.

*Answer each of the following questions directly on your answer sheet.*

1. Name three of the European countries which lie behind Russia's "Iron Curtain."

2. President Truman called Congress back to Washington to deal with what two problems?

3. What country gained control of Manchuria during the 1930's?

4. What nation in the Middle East has refused to grant oil concessions to Russia?

5. A large area of what state was recently swept by forest fires?

6. Name the province of northwestern China which is seeking its independence.

# Iran's Oil Attracts Great Powers

## Petroleum and Location Keep Ancient Land in Spotlight

IRAN, formerly known as Persia, is frequently a center of controversy among the great world powers because of its rich oil fields and strategic location. For many years British companies have had rights to work the oil fields of southern Iran, and Russia wants similar privileges in the north.

Iranian officials are not willing to let Russia have such petroleum rights, because they fear that the Soviet Union would use oil concessions as a wedge to gain political control. They know that Iran's geographic position, between Russia and the Persian Gulf route to the Indian Ocean, attracts Soviet leaders. Late last month the Russian government labeled as "hostile" and "treacherous" Iran's refusal to grant it oil concessions.

All through history, Iran has been important in world politics. On many occasions, foreign countries have struggled to control it. More than 2,000 years ago its own government was a great power.

Iran's culture has influenced mankind in other ways. Its ancient civilization has produced many religious leaders, philosophers, and poets. Several centuries before the time of Columbus, for example, Omar Khayyam wrote poems that are well known today.

At present Iran is a backward country. Most of its people cannot read or write, and therefore they can have little voice in the government. They are so dissatisfied with their way of living that Communists have been able to gain support.

Aside from foreign-controlled petroleum fields, Iran has practically no modern industry. One of the main native occupations is the weaving of



IRAN'S strategic location

carpets, which is done by hand. The Iranian government has made some efforts toward modernization, but these have not gone far. Railroads and highways have been built, but camel and donkey caravans are still an important means of transportation.

Travelers are shocked by the scenes of poverty and misery to be found both in cities and rural areas. For example, many of the poor in the capital city of Teheran must depend upon the *jubes*, or open sewers, for their water supply. Such low sanitation standards make disease inevitable.

Practically all the farm land in Iran is held by wealthy landlords, who have little interest in the welfare of the peasants who tend it. Farming methods are about the same as those used many centuries ago. Iran, which is a fifth as large as the United States,

offers many types of climate. A wide variety of crops can be raised, but primitive farming keeps yields low.

Along the shore of the Caspian Sea, in part of northern Iran, there is a dense, humid forest. Much of the country, though, is made up of arid deserts, wild mountains, and land fit only for grazing.

About a fifth of the nation's 15 million people are wandering tribesmen, following flocks of sheep and goats from pasture to pasture. Tribes living in the rugged, snow-capped mountains have little contact with the outside world. Far-sighted leaders of some of these groups would like to have their people settle down and raise crops, but a great deal of irrigation work must be done before such a development can take place.

By THOMAS K. MYER.

## Historical Backgrounds - - by Harry C. Thomson

ONE winter evening in the year 1792, a group of men who had served in the American Revolution were sitting about the fireplace of a Georgia plantation owned by the widow of General Nathanael Greene. Their conversation turned to the deplorable state of agriculture in the southern part of the United States.

"Our land is not suitable for growing the long-staple cotton found along the seacoast," one of the men remarked. "The only crop we can produce is short-staple cotton. But the task of removing the seeds from our cotton is tedious and time-consuming."

"Yes," replied another member of the group. "You are right. It takes one of my slaves a whole day to seed a single pound of cotton. If only someone would invent a machine to do the work! Then our troubles would be ended."

At this remark, the hostess, Mrs. Greene, turned to one of the guests, a young man from Connecticut who had just come to the South.

"Here is your chance, Mr. Whitney," she said. "Why not put your

Yankee ingenuity to work on the problem?"

Young Eli Whitney had just graduated from Yale College and had come to Georgia to serve as a tutor and study law. Born on December 8, 1765, he had shown his mechanical genius as a boy during the Revolution while experimenting in his father's workshop. He knew nothing of cotton production, but he accepted the challenge offered by Mrs. Greene.

After only a few days of uninterrupted work, Whitney completed the first crude model of his now famous cotton "gin" (abbreviation for "engine"). During the weeks which followed, he experimented further, and by April, 1793, had produced a machine which would remove the seeds from hundreds of pounds of cotton in one day.

The news of the invention spread over the countryside like wildfire. Scores of people came to the Greene plantation to see the "gin" in operation. But before Whitney could take out a patent, thieves broke into the workshop and stole his model. Whitney eventually secured a patent, but numerous lawsuits regarding it took nearly all his profits, including \$50,000 granted him by South Carolina.

In the meantime, the cotton "gin" brought about a revolution in southern agriculture. It made profitable

the cultivation of short-staple cotton in the interior of the South, and westward to Texas. Production leaped from two million pounds a year in 1791 to 40 million pounds in 1801.

Whitney saw these results of his invention, but finally despaired of ever profiting from it himself. He decided to return to Connecticut and undertake the manufacture of firearms for the United States Army. In this endeavor he made another great contribution to American industry.

Whitney was the first American manufacturer to apply the principle of *standardized parts*. In making guns for the Army, Whitney did not produce one gun at a time in the old-fashioned way. Instead, he made hundreds of barrels, hundreds of stocks, and hundreds of triggers—all exactly the same. He then fitted them together to form finished muskets, all exactly alike.

This was not only more economical than the older methods, but also made it easier to repair the guns with "spare parts." This is the method now used in all large factories.

### Answers to Vocabulary Test

1. (b) agricultural; 2. (b) examine;
3. (d) hostile; 4. (d) peevish; 5. (b) rashness; 6. (b) without error; 7. (a) malice and spite; 8. (c) restless.